

AFU Newsletter

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General Doolittle and the ghost rockets
- we have searched the Swedish archives for the answer!

Doolittle med Spitfirehjärte.

*30 sekunder
över Tokio —
2 dagar här.*

*"Golfparti den mest
spännande upplevelsen"*

Har ni hört talas om vice verkstäl-
lande direktören i Shelloil, mr James
Doolittle? Jaså inte. Men "30-se-
kunders"-generalen James Doolittle,
som med Tokioraiden den 18 april
kunde notera den första stjärnan på
det amerikanska flygets vapensköld,
är kanske mer bekant. Dessa båda
herrar i en person anlände kl. 16.20



Douglas Badt *J. Doolittle*

The Secret of Spitzbergen: HAS A CRASHED UFO BEEN RECOVERED?

According to a report in a West German
newspaper, a board of inquiry which included
American and British experts, met to discuss
the fantastic report of a crashed UFO



**The Spitsbergen rumour
- the truth behind
the myth**

Crop circles in 1992

AFU Newsletter

AFU Newsletter issue 36, January-December 1991

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AFU is a non-profit, private foundation whose aims are:

- 1) to build a Swedish and international UFO library and research archive,
- 2) to support and encourage serious research and,
- 3) to stimulate a critical, scientific discussion on unidentified flying objects.

Our library of books is open, via mail, to Swedish contributors and supporters of the foundation.

Our other collections (magazines, report files, clippings, personal & organizational archives) are available by visiting our library. Write or phone in advance. A copier is available for use at a nominal fee.

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Credulity has no limits

Swedish ufology is in grave danger of being relegated to the backyards of occultism and superstition. Last week I found only two Swedish titles on UFOs in the local bookshop, one by contactee-enthusiast Sune Hjorth, the other by Rauni-Leena Luukanen, the abductee/contactee of Finnish descent. Both were in the "astrology" department, and I cannot blame the bookshop for that classification. The authors deserve it.

The tide seemed to turn back in 1986-87 when Whitley Strieber's books were translated into Swedish and became bestsellers. The sale of the remaining stock of the "Adamski-and-Fry" type of literature from the Parthenon book company also started a renewed interest, not only in abductions, but in contactee-ism at large. Most people don't recognize the subtle differences between these two subsets of UFO stories. The strange and serious aspects of the experiences reported, for instance, by Hopkins (- "Intruders" was also translated into Swedish -) could, and should, be an intellectual challenge. Some of these abduction victims seem like sane and psychologically non-disturbed people.

A recent study in Russia (Australian UFO Bulletin, March 1992) showed that out of 106 contactees only FOUR qualified as relatively healthy, from a psychiatric-psychological-neurological point of view. I am certain this result would repeat itself if a similar study was made in Scandinavia. Voluntary "contacts" with UFOs, space or astral beings, often seem to fulfill a deep-rooted psychological need, or is a compensation for something gone amiss in that persons life. Without psychological expertise, or knowledge, it could take years for even a careful investigator to find out what really lies behind one single case. Most investigators don't have that integrity, and so more bad data is added to the UFO myth.

The media market is now filled with books, magazines and videos that proclaim the truths of the contactees. We have seen stubborn enthusiast Sune Hjorth talking in staccato on Swedish television, openly showing the Meier photos of Semjase from the Pleiades as "proof" of extraterrestrials. We have seen Boris Jungkvist (once in the reasonable, down-to-earth camp associated with K.Gösta Rehn) with no hesitation state, on TV-3, that "Jesus was a spaceman", and repatriate Adamski from out of the cold.

People like Sten Lindgren (see AFU 35), Bertil Kuhlemann (once president of ICUR), Anders B. Johansson, Sören Broman, Jüri Lina, Kristina Wennergren and Rauni-Leena Luukanen tour New Age centers, and innocent uninformed audiences all over the country, with their mish-mash of New Age "love and light", right-wing philosophy and non-investigated UFO stories that they heard in third person and thought sounded like good tales to trade for money and fame.

Tony Eckhardt (once another down-to-earth ufologist) just released a video where contactees Sten Lindgren and Daniel Glantz, and an anonymous "UFO pilot", are "interviewed" with no critical comment at all. As if this wasn't enough, Sweden is invaded by people like Howard Menger (in Jan. 1992) and Wendelle Stevens (coming now in Oct. 1992).

Although they may be very different persons, these people all have in common that they openly and gladly overrule, deny or - most often - shut their eyes to "negative" and critical information, presumably to avoid the collapse of their own though systems. A serious debate, with these people, on the principles of gathering and checking facts, is impossible since they don't understand what we are talking about.

The cultists impose a double responsibility on us more fact-minded ufologists. First, we - endlessly - have to follow the dolgs of these people and, each time they make new revelations, point to fallacies in their data, and in their theories. Secondly, serious ufologists should counter the cultists with their own positive, good and well-researched data. Unfortunately, too much time and energy goes into the first problem, while the second suffers.

Anders Liljegren

The Spitsbergen UFO crash/retrieval incident by Ole Jonny Brænne

For almost 40 years rumours have been around concerning a crashed flying saucer on the remote island of Spitsbergen. As the story goes, the wreckage was discovered by jet pilots and later transported to Narvik where an investigation allegedly uncovered a composition of unknown metallic alloys -- and an extraterrestrial origin...

But what did really happen, if anything at all, on this remote island in, or around, June 1952..? In this article we will follow the story's development through the years, with all the surrounding rumours, changes and misunderstandings. The article is a summary of a 38-page special issue of "UFO" (the periodical of UFO-Norway) devoted entirely to the Spitsbergen issue.

Some of you are certainly familiar with the basic facts of the story, but for all of us to get well acquainted with it, we'll start off with the original source. We believe the first mention of a saucer crash on Spitsbergen is probably an article in a German newspaper, *Saarbrücker Zeitung* (1), 28 June 1952, entitled "Auf Spitzbergen landete Fliegende Untertasse". We will give you an English translation of it, here:

FLYING SAUCER LANDED ON SPITSBERGEN

The puzzle finally solved? - "Silvery disc with dome of prexlglass and 46 jets on the rim" - Soviet origin?

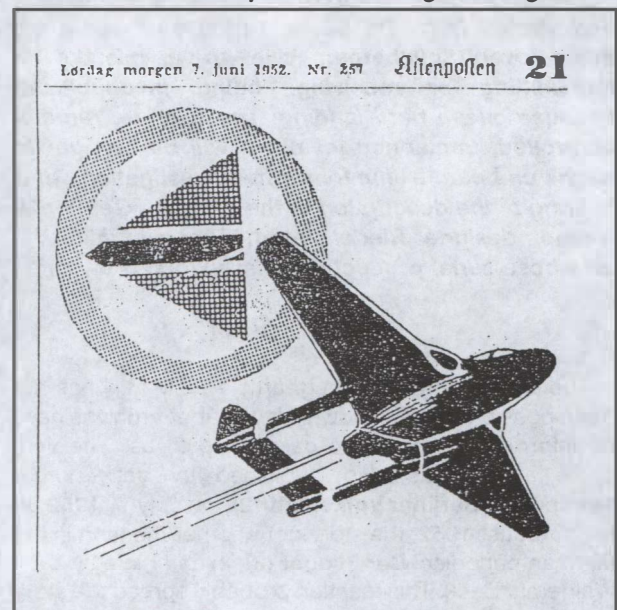
Narvik, mid-June.

Norwegian jet planes had just started this year's summer maneuvers over Spitsbergen. A squadron of six planes were approaching, at maximum speed, the Nordaustlandet, where units of the supposed opponent had been reported. The jets had just crossed over the Hinlopen Straits when crackling and rustling noises could be heard on all ear phones and radio receivers. Radio contact among the jets was no longer possible; all means of communication between the jets seemed to be out of order. The radar reading, which had been showing "white" since from Narvik, was now on "red". This indicated an alert, the approach of a metallic alien object equipped with a radio direction finder that had a different frequency from that of the fighters.

Nevertheless, the highly experienced pilots were able to communicate with each other by means of circling and diving, so that each of them was aware of their common situation, each one searching the horizon with the utmost attention. The six fighters circled for some time not finding anything that was out of the ordinary.

By chance, Air Captain Olaf Larsen happened to

look down. Immediately he started to dive, followed by his squadron. On the white snowy landscape, the crusty surface of which had an icy glitter, there was a metallic, glittering circular disc of between 40 and 50 meters diameter, which was even brighter than the icy snow. Between some wires and a tangle of supporting struts in the middle, the remains of an apparently partly destroyed cockpit protruded. While circling for 60 minutes, the jet pilots could neither detect any sign of life nor determine the origin or type of the vehicle. Finally, they took course for Narvik in order to report their strange findings.



From June 1952 ad in a Norwegian newspaper, seeking technician for Luftforsvaret, the Air Force, which mainly flew short-range Vampire jets.

Just a few hours later, five big flying boats, equipped with landing skis, took off for the place of discovery. They landed safely next to the bluish steel disc, which was sitting in a bed of snow and ice of more than one meter's depth.

"Undoubtedly one of the infamous flying saucers", claimed Dr. Norsel, a Norwegian rocket specialist, who had insisted on joining the flight. He also established the reason why all means of communication of the fighter planes had broken down on entering the zone of the landing spot, and why the radar equipment had signaled alarm: a radio direction finder equipped with a plutonium core was undamaged and transmitting on all wave lengths at a frequency of 934 Hertz, which is not known by any country.

A precise inspection of the remote-controlled flying

disc that landed on the Nordaustlandet of Spitsbergen due to interference problems, led to the following indisputable information:

1. The flying object, which has a diameter of 48,88 meters and slanting sides, is round and was unmanned.

2. The circular steel object, is made out of an unknown metal compound, resembles a silver disc. After ignition, 46 automatic jets, located at equal distances on the outer ring, rotate the disc around a plexiglassed center ball, that contains measuring and control devices for remote control.

3. The measuring instruments (gauges) have Russian symbols.

4. The action radius of the disc seems to be more than 30.000 km, and the altitude over 160 km.

5. The flying object, which resembles one of the legendary "flying saucers", has sufficient room for high explosive bombs, possibly nuclear bombs.

The Norwegian specialists assumed that the disc had started from the Soviet Union and had gone down over Spitzbergen due to a mistake in transmitting or receiving, being incapacitated because of the hard landing. The strange, remote-controlled, unmanned jet plane will be brought to Narvik on board a ship for further investigation. After hearing of the description of the disc, the German V-weapon designer Riedel stated: "That's a typical V-7 on whose serial production I have worked myself".

J.M.M.

The author of the "Zeitung" article - J.M.M. - has not been possible to track down. Newspaper archives have no information which can be of help to us. The very same article was also published by yet another newspaper, *Berliner Volksblatt* (2), on July 9, 1952. In early August 1952, the story got another mention in the German periodical *Der Flieger* (3), in an article by a Dr. Waldemar Beck. This mention probably spread the story to a far greater audience, even carried by the AFP news service into the CIA archives (4). Later authors often refer to the "Der Flieger" version.

There are several points in the "Zeitung" article which are quite interesting. They include the speculation about a possible Soviet origin, and the fact that we get the names of two persons presumably involved in the discovery and investigation of the disc itself - Air Captain Olaf Larsen and Dr. Norsel. This we must keep in mind as we proceed on our investigation.

A few books that appeared in 1953-54, briefly mentioned the Spitsbergen story (5,6,7).

Additional information comes then to our attention through yet another German newspaper, the *Hessische Nachrichten* (8), which published this account on July 26, 1954:

"FLYING SAUCERS" ARE NO FABLE

Norwegian military report of "unknown flying object" on Spitsbergen

Only now a board of Inquiry of the Norwegian General Staff is preparing the publication of a report

on the examinations of the remains of a flying saucer crashed on Spitsbergen, presumably some time ago. The chairman of the board, Colonel Gernod Darnhyl, stated, during an instruction lesson for Air Force officers:

"The Spitsbergen crash was very rewarding. True enough, our science still faces many riddles. I am sure, however, that they can soon be solved by these remains from Spitsbergen. A misunderstanding developed, some time ago, when it was stated that the flying disc was probably of Soviet origin. It has - this we must state emphatically - not been built by any country on earth. The materials are completely unknown to all experts, either not to be found on Earth, or processed by physical or chemical processes unknown to us".

According to Colonel Darnhyl, the board of Inquiry is not going to publish an extensive report until "some sensational facts" have been discussed with experts from the USA and Great Britain. "We must tell the public what we know about the unknown flying objects. A misplaced secrecy may well one day lead to panic!"

The North Pole, base for unknowns?

The Norwegian fighter pilots, Lieutenant Brobs and Lieutenant Tyllensen, who, since the Spitsbergen event have been assigned as observers of the polar area, claim that, contrary to American and other sources, the flying discs have already landed repeatedly in the northern polar zone.

"I believe that the polar area is an air base for the unknowns. Especially during snow and ice storms, when we, with our machines, must retreat to our base, it is my belief that the flying objects take advantage of this to make landings. I have, shortly after such bad weather conditions, seen them land and take off three times", said Lieutenant Tyllensen. "I noticed then, that having landed, they execute a very speedy rotation around their axis. During flight, and take off, or landing, the brilliant light prevents any view of the events behind this wall of brilliance and on, or inside, the flying object itself."

Enough of physical evidence

Colonel Darnhyl thinks that, within the next twelve months, a solution to these technical problems will be found, or, at least, science will be on the right track towards solving the UFO problem. "We now have material at hand, on which we can start. That means laboratories can start the work right away and they might give us preliminary results shortly. Norwegian scientists think that the material from Spitsbergen can only give away its secrets by nuclear crushing; this because it does not change either at absolute zero, when air is liquified, or at the highest temperatures technically possible with our technology. Also, every chemical treatment has been tried. Scientific results will only be released subsequent to a UFO conference in London or Washington."

The communication from Swedish TV-set owners, that their reception recently was interfered with every time flying saucers were reported over northern Sweden, caused sensation in circles of the Norwegian board of Inquiry. In consequence of this Colonel Darnhyl hopes, sooner or later, to track down the communication system of unknown flying objects.

Sven Thygesen

A lot of people will think that this definitely is a change for the better! The wreckage is no longer of a possible Soviet origin, but extraterrestrial. And we also got additional named persons involved: Chairman of the board Colonel Gernod Darnhyl (misspelled Darnbyl by several later sources), and Norwegian Lieutenants Brobs and Tyllensen. Sven Thygesen, the author of the "Nachrichten" article, is another person we haven't been able to track down. Yet, in this case we have a name, not just initials.



Swedish space journalist Eugen Semitjov drew this fantasy of how he thought witnesses in Wolin, Poland experienced the landing of a disc-shaped object with big Russian letters painted on the cabin, on July 31, 1953. The case may be another journalistic hoax.

Later this same year a new twist to the Spitsbergen story appears in the Norwegian newspaper **Verdens Gang** (9), published on December 19, 1954.

It goes like this:

SOUTH-AMERICAN REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER IN NORWAY!

Contradicts information of it having Russian writing

The Uruguayan newspaper "El Nacional" of Montevideo has recently, with big fuzz, brought a message "about the Norwegian scientist Hans Larsen Løberg's discovery of a flying saucer on Hellgoland". It concerns, says the newspaper, the same flying saucer that "was reported to have fallen down into the mountains of Spitsbergen in August 1952".

Mr. Larsen Løberg says that this saucer in reality crashed (fell down) on Hellgoland (Hålogaland - Helgeland?) which is a small island in the North Sea (Nordsjøen), used as a submarine base by the Germans during the war. Of Hans Larsen Løberg is said that he won a prize in physics in Hungary. The newspaper also features his picture. (Editor/AFU: Due to it's bad quality the picture cannot be reproduced here, but it depicts a smiling, middle-aged man in suit and tie.)

Larsen Løberg also retracts the rumour that the saucer was supposed to have Russian writing. It had, he says, a diameter of 91 feet and a thickness on the middle of about 70 feet. In the spaceship's control room they found a number of push-buttons. It was deduced that it could travel aided by the magnetic forces that hold the planets in their position in space, and these forces are controlled by said buttons. They found no engine in the spaceship, nor could they discover any rivets, fuses or bolts. The outer surface was shiny and transparent.

Pills and heavy water

The material used was as light as aluminum, but very much harder, and probably much heat-resistant. Of the things found in its interior, they noticed some water that was three times as heavy as normal water, and a few pills which were taken to be food. There was also an apparatus which probably was a radio. It was quite small and had no antenna. They also found some books, probably navigational instructions, in a completely unknown writing. The doors of the spaceship were open. Just inside of the doors were 7 bodies, burned beyond recognition. Scientists are of the opinion, according to Larsen Løberg, that the bodies were of men at the age of between 25 and 30 years, about 1,65 m tall. All had perfect sets of teeth.

Beam-gun

Dr. Hans Larsen Løberg could also tell about the finding of a completely unknown weapon, a beam-gun which used magnetic rays. This gun, he thinks, explains a number of strange incidents in the USA. In Wyoming, Oklahoma City, Pittsburg and New York windows were broken, for unexplained reasons, on thousands and thousands of cars. And it must be obvious, he says, that the young pilot Mantell, who during a flight reported on radio that he had

encountered a flying saucer and shortly thereafter crashed in pursuit of it, must have been shot down by this beam-gun.

Crew burned to death

The reason for the crash of this saucer, he thought, had to be that it was affected by the American hydrogen-bomb explosion. The material of the spaceship, and its apparatus, resisted the enormous heat, but the crew burned to death. The newspaper which picked up the story in Brazil, admits that it sounds fantastic, but draws attention to it not having been officially denied!

VG has investigated, in Oslo, whether there is a scientist by the name of Hans Larsen Løberg, but everyone queried, and who ought to know about him, says that the name is completely unknown.

Obviously, somebody is mixing two different versions of the story, here. We are told that the saucer didn't fall on Spitsbergen, but on the German island of Helgoland, in the North Sea. We are also given information about a magnetic beam-gun, heavy water, pills as food, books with unknown writing...and dead bodies. None of this has previously figured in our sources.

In addition we get to know yet another person by name: the Norwegian scientist Hans Larsen Løberg. He becomes person number 7 in this jigsaw. The "Verdens Gang" article refers to an Uruguayan newspaper, *El Nacional* (10), which, again, has a Brazilian source. Our South American contacts have not yet been able to get hold of this article, but we have managed to track down the first mention of the Helgoland story, as published in *Sir* (11), September 1954:

FIRST REPORT ON THE CAPTURED FLYING SAUCER! by E.W.Grenfell

On a tiny island in the North Sea off the German coast, a secret investigation is in progress to determine whether hydrogen bomb explosions in the Pacific Ocean knocked a flying saucer to earth. Preliminary findings were revealed recently in Oslo, Norway, by Dr. Hans Larsen Løberg, a retired Norwegian scientist, who said investigators have already made some startling discoveries.

In his report, Dr. Løberg said the mysterious cracking and shattering of automobile windshields in several U.S. cities a few months ago may be explained when results of the investigation are in. Because, he added, the grounded saucer is reported to carry firing instruments capable of shattering glass with magnetic rays.

The saucer came down on Heligoland, a small island which the Germans used as a U-boat base during World War I. Since the island is only a speck of land in a large body of water, Dr. Løberg believes the disk was forced to earth when H-bomb blasts created conditions of atmospheric pressure that made flight impossible.

It was not a crash-up, and investigators found most of the saucer's instruments in good condition. On

ground near the ship were found the bodies of seven men, all burned beyond recognition. They may, or may not, have been passengers aboard the weird flying craft.

Dr. Løberg, one-time winner of the Hungarian Physics Award, said descriptive details of the saucer were told him by a fellow-scientist who is with the investigating team on Helgoland.

If magnetic rays from the flying saucer shattered auto windshields, then police in several American cities will close the books on a case which drove them to the boiling point a few months ago. It all began in the city of Bellingham, Washington, where horrified citizens learned that, in one week's time, 1500 automobiles had turned up with cracked windshields - and no one could explain the reason why. Bellingham's 34000 people began to wonder if ghosts had invaded their midst. Even house and store windows slithered into bits. The windshields at times cracked up while cars were in motion, but no one could pin down any concrete cause.

While the astounding story made headlines throughout the US, Bellingham's city officials were dodging frantic citizens, police were going crazy, and local glass manufacturers were making a fortune. Then windshields began falling apart in Wyoming, in Oklahoma City, in Pittsburgh and finally in New York City. Nobody, not even glass experts, could come up with a reasonable explanation.

The saucer's magnetic ray gun, which Dr. Løberg believes responsible for all the disintegrating glass, may also provide a solution to yet another mystery - an airplane crash near Fort Knox, Ky., on January 7, 1948. On that day an unidentified object was sighted over Goodman Air Force Base at Fort Knox by both military and civilian observers. Air Force Captain Thomas K. Bandell (obviously a misprint for Mantell - OJB), flying his plane over the base, radioed the Goodman tower and reported the object was travelling at half his speed.

"I'm closing in now to take a good look," he reported. "It's directly ahead of me and still moving at about half my speed. This thing looks metallic and of tremendous size... It's going up now and forward as fast as I am. That's 360 miles per hour...I'm going up to 20000 feet and if I'm no closer I'll abandon chase."

The time was 1:15 P.M. and that was the last radio contact Bandell had with the Goodman tower. Several hours later, his body was found in the wreckage of his plane near the base.

If the Helgoland saucer's magnetic ray gun is in good condition, it may reveal the power to shatter airplanes as well as glass.

Dr. Løberg contends the craft apparently landed under guidance of its own instruments and the investigators studied it at a distance for two days before risking closer observation. The area where the saucer came down was bombarded with cosmic rays, Geiger counters and other protective devices before investigation began.

The seven charred bodies found around the saucer are yet unidentified. Their clothing was burned away

completely and there were no clues to indicate whether they were passengers aboard the craft, or whether they were Heligoland residents ventured too close to the saucer too soon. Curiously, all seven men seemed to be from 25 to 30 years of age and of the same height - about 5 feet 8 inches. All had excellent teeth.

Investigators have one theory: That the seven men were passengers who were consumed by fire inside the descending ship. The blaze had been caused by sudden changes in atmospheric pressure conditions inside the saucer's hermetically sealed cabin. Atop the craft was a trap-door through which the seven bodies could have been thrown by the impact of landing.

Even more curious were the ship's measurements. It was 91 feet in diameter and the cabin 70 feet high. In fact, all dimensions were dividable by seven. On the control board were a series of push-buttons, but investigators are still studying the interior mechanism to learn what propelled the saucer in flight.

Dr. Løberg's theory is that the disk may have travelled by harnessing magnetic lines of force which scientists know encircle the nine planets of the solar system. He points out that there was no motor and no propeller, but if magnetic force is involved, the saucer would move just as a nail moves when approached by a magnet.

The landing gear resembled a tripod of three metal cylinders which would revolve in any direction. There were no bolts, rivets or screws on the saucer and in the construction were found two metals which are entirely unknown to scientists. Outer metal of the ship was light in weight and resembled aluminum, but it was so hard that even 15,000 degrees Fahrenheit could not melt it down. Two men could easily lift one side of the saucer.

Although it was not immediately established that the seven burned men were former passengers of the ship, investigators found equipment inside which definitely resembled living quarters! Well-enclosed bunks were ingeniously placed on one side of the cabin's interior.

A liquid resembling water but almost three times as heavy as normal drinking water, was found in two small containers. On a wall-bracket was a tube filled with a large number of pills, possibly tabulated food.

The saucer's radio, which had no tubes, no wires and no aerial, was about as small as a king-size cigarette package. Pamphlets and booklets, which seem to deal with navigation problems, were also found but investigators are still trying to decipher the script used in the text.

Dr. Løberg emphasized that when the Heligoland investigation is completed, the report will add a new chapter to flying saucer history.

Where, or by whom, these two stories have been mixed up, will possibly be a lot easier to determine when we get the South American articles, but it is quite clear that we are dealing with two different stories.

Now, if we move forward in time to November 1956, we find that the Dutch magazine UFO-Gids (12) publish,

with minor changes, almost the same text as the "Hessische Nachrichten". But the Dutch magazine does not credit "Hessische Nachrichten" for the story. Instead, it gives "Stuttgarts Dagblad" for September 5, 1955, as it's source.

In later accounts, **Stuttgarter Tageblatt** (13) has been alleged to have been the origin of the Darnhyl version, a story which surfaced already in 1954. Obviously, someone tried to 'germanize' "Stuttgarts Dagblad", and didn't care too much for investigating his source.

Non-existent newspaper

Several authors have used "Stuttgarter Tageblatt" as a source for the Spitsbergen story, which is, in fact, a non-existent newspaper! Neither CENAP nor other researchers have ever found any trace of such a newspaper, or even such an article published on, or around, the date given by UFO-Gids. Actually, "Stuttgarts Dagblad" may simply mean "a newspaper from Stuttgart" in Dutch.

The story goes on, and in 1966 Frank Edwards' book **Flying Saucers - Serious Business** (14) is published. Edwards claims to have been in contact with a member of the Norwegian board of inquiry. We will bring the relevant section here:

"In 1954 when I wrote to a member of the Norwegian Board of Inquiry which had investigated the Spitsbergen case, I received, after four months, a cryptic reply: 'I regret that it is impossible for me to respond to your questions at this time.' Could he, then, answer my questions at some other time? To that inquiry I received no reply. I am recovering from the shock."

This alleged contact can not be regarded as anything but an attempt to make the story "better". He does not name his alleged contact, and copies of the letters, which would have been natural to include in his book, never surfaced.

New twists to the story

In 1968, Arthur Shuttlewood's book **Warnings From Flying Friends** (15) was published. Here he recounts an article by Bruce Sandham, "Invasion from Space" (16). Sandham says that a Catalina flying boat, not six jets, discovered the object, and he gives May 1952 and not June 1952 as the date. Where he got his information from we don't know. Obviously it is yet another "twist" to the story.

Through the years the Spitsbergen story has featured in a number of books and magazine articles - so many that in this article we can only deal with the most important ones - the ones that added new info, or confusion...

Oh yes, confusion. More of that is added in 1986 by William Steinman in his book **UFO Crash At Aztec** (17). First of all he gets the Spitsbergen and Heligoland stories mixed up. He says that seven dead beings were found near the Spitsbergen saucer. He also gives us new "data" in that the pilot who first discovered the saucer, and reported his find, never came back.

The latest article I will discuss here is "New Information on The Spitzbergen Saucer Crash" by

William L. Moore, in **Focus 5** (18), dated Dec 31, 1990. In this article, Moore includes a translation of a French newspaper article which appeared in the Oct 15, 1954 edition of **Le Lorrain** (19).

It tells of a Swiss report published by D.A.T. (Territorial Air Defence) on flying saucers, describing WW2 Schriever/Habermohl/Miethe nazi saucer experiments. Claiming the Spitsbergen wreckage was one such saucer, it was "recovered by Canadian commandos". William L. Moore has quite clearly not done his homework, stating that "this account remains the best and most authoritative explanation I've heard so far for the Spitzbergen saucer crash rumours".

This is, basically, the Spitsbergen UFO crash/retrieval story as of today. Now we can either let it keep wandering from magazine to magazine as endless rehashes, or we can do a little basic research & investigation to check the story out. What I will do now, is to tell you what investigation others have done, what investigation I have done myself, and finally we will concentrate our attention on the Norwegian air force jets around the winter 1951/spring 1952 period.

If we look at page 118 of Robert G. Girard's **An Early U.F.O. Scrap Book** (20), we find an undated newspaper clipping which is very interesting. It tells what the "Der Flieger" article said about the incident, and included that "Norwegian Air Force headquarters denied all knowledge of the report and said it never had heard of 'Dr. Norsel'". This clipping is probably dated around August-September 1952.

Spitsbergen facts

Svalbard is a group of several islands, six of which are fairly large. The group lies between 76° and 81° N, about 930 km north of Tromsø. The islands belong to Norway since 1920. They cover an area of about 62.000 km², and are mostly covered by ice and snow. There are no trees, but in fact 125 species of extra tough arctic growths. The highest mountain is Mt. Newton, rising to 1.700 meters.

The Hinlopen Straits, place of the alleged crash, separates the islands of Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet. The straits are going NNW, between 79° and 80° N. The straits are 120 kms long and 10 km broad, at the narrow point.

The number of people living on Svalbard today is 3.500. In the 1950s, population numbered some 1.500. Norway and the Soviet Union has an agreement on coal mining on these islands. Most people living here are working in the mines. In later years, tourist traffic has increased noticeably, due to the beautiful nature of these areas.

In 1954, the Norwegian newspaper "Verdens Gang" made inquiries, in Oslo, about the name of Hans Larsen Løberg (as we remember, involved with the Helgoland story), but everyone asked, who ought to know about such a man, stated that the name was completely unknown.

American inquiries

According to the book **The UFO Evidence** (21), NICAP wrote to the Norwegian Embassy in 1958, receiving this reply: "Our Air Force's UFO material is mainly of security graded nature and cannot be put to the disposal of NICAP". I have not seen the letter myself. This letter has been used as evidence of a secret classification of the Spitsbergen incident report and analyses, but the letter does in fact not mention that case specifically, but UFO-related documents generally. And UFO-related material being classified at that time, ties in with my own research.

According to the Condon report, **Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects** (22), "it seems well established that this story has no basis in fact".

Further inquiries in Norway

A Norwegian researcher, Arne Børcke, visited the Ministry of Defence in late 1973. There, he was able to sift through all the material they had about this case. Ever since the story surfaced in 1952, they had received numerous letters from interested persons of all categories. But the Ministry had no knowledge of such an incident having taken place. (23)

Another Norwegian, Jon-Ingar Haltuff, determined in 1978 that the original story was an impossibility, physically as well as politically (24). Kevin D. Randle, a very eminent researcher, was of the opinion that the story is a hoax (25). Margaret Sachs, in her book **The UFO Encyclopedia** (26), writes that "although rumors continue to circle about the alleged Spitsbergen crash, no conclusive evidence has been presented to support the story".

My own research consists of *sifting through the entire 1952 edition of "Svalbardposten", the local newspaper for Svalbard/Spitsbergen. There was no mention at all of any saucer crash! Neither were there any such story in any of Norway's main newspapers: "Aftenposten", "Morgenbladet", "Morgenposten", or "Verdens Gang", in 1952. I also checked all editions of Hvem Er Hvem (27) for the period 1912-1984, the Norwegian equivalent of "Who's Who". None of the names mentioned in connection with our story figured in any of these editions.*

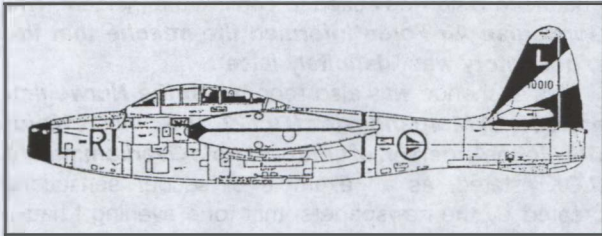
In correspondence with the Defence Museum in Oslo (28,29,30) during 1990-91, I determined that they have no knowledge of any of the names involved. They do not consider it likely that Norwegian jets could have operated around Svalbard in 1952.

The Press and Information Division of the Norwegian High Command do not have any papers on the Norwegian pilots and military personell allegedly involved in the story. They **do**, however, have data on **all** those officers who **did** exist.

Norwegian jet fighters

Then we come to the aircraft. According to all the versions, except the one by Bruce Sandham, the wreckage was discovered by jet pilots. The only jet fighters in the Norwegian Air Force in 1951-52 were De Havilland DH 100 Vampires (in three versions: FMK3, FBMK52 and TMK55), and Republic F-84 Thunderjets (in two versions: F-84E and F-84G).

According to my correspondence with the Defence Museum (30) as well as the available literature (for instance, 31), the Vampire jets were stationed at Gardermoen AFB (about 50 km north of Oslo). With an action radius of only 980 km, we can definitely rule these out.



F-84 of the Norwegian Air Force.

Our last, and only (!), alternative is then the F-84. Six F-84E's were delivered on September 10, 1951, and were included in Squadron 334 at Sola (outside Stavanger). These were the only F-84E's delivered to the Norwegian Air Force. During the spring and summer of 1952 Norway received twentyfive F-84G's. 200 were delivered, in all, with deliveries completed in 1955. F-84G had an action radius of 1610 km, so this looks promising. But still it fails to fulfill our wishes. Why?

Because, according to research done in part by the author and by Anders Liljegren, the airfields in northern Norway were either too short, or going through extensive upgrading to meet the new NATO standard. All F-84 aircraft were stationed in the southern part of Norway at the time, and then the action radius becomes too short. In addition, it was said that the aircraft circled around the saucer wreckage for almost an hour, so anyone can see the hopelessness in this.

Conclusion

The conclusion therefore has to be that the Spitsbergen story (and the Helgoland story too, for that matter) is nothing but a classic **H-O-A-X!** The original authors, mainly J.M.M. and Sven Thygesen (if that was their real names), had a cursory knowledge of Norwegian military aircraft, but far from good enough.

Even if this case does not hold any water, I will venture my way with a little prophecy: This story will, with great certainty, continue to be the subject of books as well as magazines during the 1990s. There will always be "researchers" who think this story deserves their enthusiastic attention, and cannot settle down with factual arguments which clearly show the story to lack any basis in reality.

"We must follow where the evidence trail leads even if it is dragging us, screaming and kicking, away from our fondest hopes and dreams."

Jenny Randles in "Mind monsters". 1990.

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Postscript to Spitsbergen by Anders Liljegren

Not much remains to be said after Ole Jonny Brænnens eminent compilation of sources on the Spitsbergen legend. The bibliography of the original Norwegian text refers to no less than 165 sources. A few pieces, however, remain to be laid out for the puzzle to be more complete:

1. The "original" articles in 1952-54 bear much likeness to the modern **tabloid stories** of "impossible phenomena" that now invade ufology in the West (and the East!). To a casual, non-enthused, reader the small details of these stories often ring a warning bell. The enthusiast, however, blindfolds him/herself from the questionable, tiny bits of information. When, for instance, "Sven Thygesen" (se Brænnens article) reports on interferences noted by north-Swedish TV set owners in the summer of 1954, "Thygesen" obviously hasn't done his homework very well. **The first small chain of Swedish TV transmitters were not put into operation until 1956 and then only in the southern, more populated areas....!**

2. The Spitzbergen and Helgoland yarns (as well as the WWII nazi saucer saga and other similar mythic legends) can never be understood without a look at the sources and the culture that provide inspiration.

1952 (when the Spitzbergen story first surfaced) was a particularly tense year in Europe. In June the Soviet Union shot down a Swedish DC-3 radio/radar reconnaissance aircraft over the Baltic (the plane & crew are still missing, but Russia recently admitted guilt) and also shot down a Swedish Catalina search-plane on a search mission for the DC-3. These, and similar incidents, heightened tensions in central Europe and "the northern theatre".

There were several saucer stories published that more-or-less attributed saucers to the Kremlin. Particularly interesting, in connection with Spitsbergen, is the sighting of **East German mayor Oskar Linke** in the spring of 1952, published only weeks after the Spitsbergen yarn. "When I saw this object, I immediately thought that it was a new Soviet military machine", Linke stated in a report that went to the CIA.

In the summer of 1953 Danish sources speculated about a Russian saucer base in the Arctic. In October 1952 the Norwegian marine base at Horten and the Oslofjorden estuary was reportedly violated by an airship "of unknown construction". The Swedish air force had a series of unknown blips ("angels", Russians, or?) on their Baltic radar scopes in 1952-53, particularly after the Washington radar cases and the U.S. wave noted by most European papers.

As with the Nazis, a decade before, the extreme secrecy of communism led to much unfounded

speculation. For instance, in June 1955 the American "Aero Digest" spread the rumour that the Russians had successfully developed a photon rocket and was now testing it from submarines.

This was the environment where rumour easily got a starting point and where even outlandish stories got a hearing. Loren Gross reports (UFO's: a history: 1953: Aug-Dec, p.5) of **Russian use of disinformation to spread rumours of ray weapons and flying saucers in central Europe.**

3. The Spitsbergen story was, from the start, emphatically denied by Norwegian authorities, but denials usually have no hearing in the UFO community. Loren Gross notes (UFO's: a history. 1952; June-July 20th, p. 31), based on Blue Book files, that the U.S. Air Attaché in Oslo was asked to confirm the incident. **The Norwegian Air Force informed the attaché that the saucer story was "definitely false".**

This exchange was also reported in the **Norwegian newspaper Morgenposten (Oct 27, 1952)** where **major Ole Mehn-Andersen of Luftforsvarets Overkommando (LOK)** stated, as an example of saucer sensations created by the newspapers, that "one evening I had a telephone call from a foreign embassy which had been given the sensational news that a "flying saucer" had landed on Svalbard and had been investigated by a professor Norsel..."

4. Finally, let me add yet one more "twist" to the Spitzbergen legend as told in a letter written to AFU associate **Åke Franzén** (Stockholm) on Nov. 11, 1968. The author is a certain **B.S.** (full name known) of Stockholm:

"The case of the Norwegian fighter pilot. A Norwegian fighter pilot on reconnaissance over Spitsbergen, reported to his base in northern Norway, that he had sighted a saucer that had landed on Spitsbergen. The message, received by the control tower, is quickly spread among the base personnel. The pilot had taken a close look at "the saucer". A unconditional secrecy was ordered among the staff of the tower, but it was too late."

"The pilot does not return, but is believed - by the staff not associated with those in the tower - to have landed at another base. Friends of the pilot start looking for their mate, but he has disappeared without a trace. He is even left out of all the papers, and when his friends visit his home district, his name is no longer in the parish register. The story has been given me personally by a Norwegian air mechanic who did his military service at the base at the time of the incident. Personally, I ask the question: Is this disappearance due to actions by Norwegian defence, or are the UFOs behind it?"

When **Håkan Blomqvist**, in 1986, enquired "B.S." for further details, he got a very, very strange reply that indicated some kind of mental aberration with the reporter.

It is obvious that the Spitsbergen story, in some quarters, has taken on the quality of a modern, urban legend, embroidered with each telling of the tale.

Russian UFO investigators in Stockholm by Clas Svahn

Two investigators from the Russian Academy of Sciences UFO-group visited Sweden last December. AFU's and UFO-Sweden's chairman Clas Svahn had a five hour discussion with the gentlemen, in Stockholm, the focus of which was turned on future cooperation and methodology in UFO research. UFO-Sweden's director for contacts with Eastern Europe, Mats Nilsson, also attended the meeting. The Russian scientists are regular visitors to the Esrange space research site in northern Sweden.

For the first time ever Swedish UFO researchers have started a mutual cooperation with Russian scientists working with UFO investigations in the former Eastern block. An informal meeting was held in Stockholm on December 15, 1991.

The scientists, professors Sergey Chernouss and Vladimir Pivovarov, are both working with the Polar Geophysical Institute near Murmansk, and are members of the Russian Academy of Sciences. They are also members of a group of 15 scientists from the Academy focusing on UFO reports.

- Our committee investigates 10-15 cases each year. We try to pick the most spectacular ones, says Chernouss, who himself investigates two or three of them. 99 per cent of the cases get a satisfactory explanation, according to professor Chernouss:

- Most of them are related to human activities in near space. Rocket launches, of which many are made in Russia, lies behind most of them. The remainder - one per cent - lack enough information to be evaluated.

- When we do investigations we no longer restrict ourselves to mere statements from the observer. That is not a very fruitful way to work. Instead we focus on tangible evidence such as films and pictures.

All-sky cameras record launches

The Academy UFO group has access to several all-sky cameras used for scientific purposes, such as recording northern lights. If a significant sighting takes place near one of the cameras, the film is scrutinized. This far, no proof of any UFOs have turned out from that research.



- It is an interesting fact that the only cameras that do record mysterious lights are the ones placed near densely populated areas, or near cosmodromes. We have, for example, similar cameras in the Antartic zone but they never record anything more mysterious than ordinary polar lights.

Professor Chernouss sees this as an indication of the human origin of most so called UFOs, and he remembers several "classic" cases that have turned out to be rocket launches viewed under extraordinary conditions.

The Tblisi pilot sighting

One famous example is the so called Tblisi sighting, where a Soviet commercial airliner's crew and passengers observed a strange light during a flight from Tblisi to Tallinn in Esthonia, on Sept 7, 1984 (see our review of misidentified Russian rocket shots in AFU Newsletter 31 pp. 2-6, unfortunately on in Swedish - the case was widely reported in western media, in January, 1985).

The sighting started as the pilots spotted "a very bright star" 40 kilometres from the ground. After a while a cone-like streak of light emerged from the star. The cone hit the ground and later turned to point directly towards the aircraft. Seconds later, the UFO seemed to head for the airplane at very high speed, leaving a greenish cloud behind.

This observation has long been thought of as a genuine UFO report, but it is now clear that what the crew observed was the launching of a rocket. The description fits exactly with how the firing of a rocket booster should look like, and there are several similar observations for comparisons.

The impression that the UFO was closing in on the aircraft was created by the enormous gas cloud that was ejected from the rocket during the ascent, and shortly before it turned northeast.

- We have identified this rocket and everything fits with the observation reports, says professor Chernouss.

Voronezh and Petrozavosk

- We have also investigated the wellknown Voronezh sighting (September 1989), where some kids saw a bright "craft", and later some creatures on the ground. The time of the sighting, and the direction of the observed craft, coincides precisely with a rocket experiment that was taking place at Volgograd.

The most wellknown incident, however, of a rocket launch confusing people is the "Petrozavodsk jellyfish UFO" of September 20, 1977. This event coincides on the very minute with the launching of spy satellite Kosmos 955 from the

Plesetsk cosmodrome south of Archangelsk.

James Oberg, in his book "UFOs & outer space mysteries" (Donning 1982), shows this correlation very clearly, and even publishes a picture taken from Finland of the incident. In this picture, taken by Jukka Mikkola, one sees the first arms of the jellyfish form.

At our meeting professor Chernouss showed additional pictures taken by three independent all-sky cameras on the night of the Petrozavodsk incident. On the pictures from Sodankylä, in Finland, it is possible to follow the contrails of the Kosmos 955 booster evolving into a giant jellyfish. The first picture was taken at 04.04 hours and is mostly covered with a bright aurora, but three minutes later the jellyfish is clearly visible. On the last picture, taken 04.08, nearly 15 per cent of the entire sky is covered by the jellyfish.

On another set of pictures, from Archangelsk, we can see how the rocket exhaust, in less than one minute - between 04.04 and 04.05 - "explodes" into gigantic proportions, from having been a minor speck of light. The time, and all descriptions of the "UFO", fit exactly with all pictures taken of the space shot.

The Russian Academy "UFO group" have their archives in Moscow and also have access to military reports. In one case the group was able to explain a film taken by a Baltic fighter pilot as being a scientific balloon from the Esrange satellite surveillance station outside Kiruna, in northern Sweden. The film was classified, but the group got access to it, and found the explanation.

The private UFO groups

Professor Chernouss is disappointed with the quality of Russian UFO groups, and indicates that most of them are more interested in getting money from dubious publications, than in the investigation of cases.

UFOs are big business in the former Soviet republics. Books and magazines sell very well. A recent book, published in Esthonia, sold its first 20.000 copies in no time and is now out of print.

- We have tried to cooperate with the groups, but most of them don't like our approach to the subject. For many of them UFOs are "food for the brain", and they really don't want to find explanations.

The last two or three years, with an increasing freedom of the press, and "perestrojka" making the society more open, newspapers and other media in the former Soviet Union have started to print one incredible story after the other. Last summer I met with professor Oleg Yakovlev, a geochemist and expert on the surfaces of the planets, at an exhibition in Stockholm. Professor Yakovlev

confirmed that the press seemed to have lost all control of the stories printed, and that nothing was weird enough to be left out.

This has led to many obvious fabrications being printed without any follow-ups at all. Some of the stories soon reach the west as true accounts of UFOs.

Hopefully, the contacts now made between UFO-Sweden, Archives for UFO Research, and the Russian scientists will enable us to get more reliable information, and to check interesting cases.

This cooperation will also be a great help in identifying the many rocket launches from the Plesetsk cosmodrome that are often observed from Sweden (the lights can be seen more than 1.000 kilometres), and mistaken for UFOs. A joint list of suspected, previous, sightings in this category is being prepared, and continually updated, in cooperation between researchers from Sweden, Finland, the United States (James Oberg) and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

AFU Newsletter 36

Howard Menger - master of contradictions by Clas Svahn & Håkan Blomqvist

Contactee *Howard Menger* talked before an audience in Stockholm on January 30, 1992. Two days before, he had a press conference resulting in several articles, interviews on radio and a TV feature. The Menger visit was organized by, among others, *Sten Lindgren* (himself a contactee and formerly the administrator of Project URD) and *Bertil Kuhlmann* (ex-chairman of ICUR).

Howard Menger was dressed in a neat suit. Some 400 people attended, tempted by the possibility of meeting someone who claims to be in contact with people from outer space. Beside him, his wife *Connie* steadfastly supported him. The visit to Sweden was part of a promotion tour for the Mengers recent book, "The High Bridge incident".

Menger has been one of the most (in)famous contactees after his book "From outer space to you" was published in 1959.

The talk was illustrated by slides, most of them wrongly exposed. Menger claims he visited the Moon as early as 1956. He could walk around freely on the surface, without any protection, breathing the fresh atmosphere. As he landed on the Moon he saw large cupolas where Russians, Americans, Swedes (!) and other nationalities worked in cooperation with Brothers and Sisters from space, he announced with certainty.

It is only after American researchers discovered "the face on Mars", in the 80's, that Menger claims to have seen the same, while on tour in space.

- You are so beautiful! I love you Swedes! You look like the extraterrestrials, Menger preached during the press conference as well as in his talk.

The talk developed into a pathetic show with sometimes a religious "hallelujah"-like atmosphere. Menger inspired no confidence, seemed confused, and had constantly to be prompted by his wife.

Menger repeatedly talked about his saucer construction, a disc propelled by "electromagnetic gravitation". The first prototype crashed in 1951

and the second isn't ready yet. Menger showed a video of his experiments, which impressed some in the audience, but a physicist from the Royal Technical High School of Stockholm said the film showed wellknown experiments they often perform at the School.

- I don't know, myself, how it works, maybe it's antigravitation, maybe some other propulsion, Menger said.

If you believe in Menger you must discard all other contactees. To believe in them *all* you have to make gigantic leaps of logic. But most people in the audience didn't question him, they just wanted a religious message so that they could sleep well in the night.

Menger didn't mention his earlier claim to have been the victim of a Pentagon experiment to test the psychological reactions to contacts with outer space. In the 1960's Menger even called his book "fact-fantasy", something he doesn't want to hear about in 1992.

Menger is a master of contradiction. In the 80's he withdrew his statements about visitors from Venus, Mars, etc. Instead, they were "brothers from the other side" or "the visitors". Now he's back in business with space people and his voyage to the Moon.

In the autumn 1979 issue of *True* magazine Menger advertised a talisman that would bring happiness and money to the buyer. Menger does not want to hear about this episode in his career. He blames "a hoaxer" to have published the ad in his name. That does not hold water since buyers were explicitly asked to make their checks payable to "Howard Menger".

Menger sold a cheap religious, occult and conservative message. "Love God, the nation and president Bush", and you will do well. Some left before the show was over. Among the few that seemingly regarded Menger as a genuine and honest contactee were the organizers.

AFU Newsletter 36

General Doolittle and the ghost rockets by Anders Liljegren

On Tuesday August 20, 1946, General James H. Doolittle arrived at the Bromma airport of Stockholm. His visit to Sweden has been a subject of much speculation in ufology. It has been surmised that Doolittle's arrival was somehow connected to American intelligence interest in the appearance over Sweden of the mysterious "ghost rockets", that summer. Doolittle's role in the 1946 drama has even promoted him to a position as one of the possible secret members of a MJ-12-like high level UFO study group.

General Doolittle was one of the most well-known military stars, fostered by WWII. Doolittle planned and commanded American/allied bomb raids over Africa, Italy, Germany and Japan. "His expansive character and aggressiveness won the loyalty of his men, and concealed a shrewd tactician, skilled and persuasive", says one bibliographical dictionary. Doolittle was wellknown, even in Sweden, as the American who initiated the first 30 seconds American bomber strike on Tokyo in 1942. His visit to Sweden caused first-page articles in leading Swedish newspapers.

After demobilization the general had, since about six months, taken on the position as vice president of the Shell oil company, where he had previously been an employee, during a ten year period between the wars. The official reason for the two-night stay in Stockholm was to confer with his colleagues of Swedish Shell, selling oil and gasoline and discussing mutual problems. Doolittle continued to Copenhagen on Thursday, Aug. 22. That his trip would have a connection



"Doolittle, world famous air general, who will arrive in Stockholm tomorrow" (From "Expressen", August 19, 1946).

with the ghost rockets was emphatically denied by the management of Swedish Shell.

On the other hand - and this has inspired much suspicion - the general was to have an evening lunch (on Wednesday, August 21) with general Nordenskiöld, head of the Swedish Air Force, and some other Swedish military high brass. The lunch was on Operakällaren, one of the most wellknown restaurants in central Stockholm. But, according to one newspaper the meeting was to discuss "military oil problems", not ghost rockets.

Douglas Bader

In Sweden, Doolittle was accompanied by his wife and by Douglas Bader, another wellknown air-ace of the war years. (1) Bader had lost both legs in a plane crash in 1931, then used wooden legs, and was therefore refused by the British Royal Air Force. After a spectacular air show before an RAF audience, Bader finally talked himself into the force and became, despite his handicap, one of the most skillful and famous war fighter pilots. His life story is a legend in military and aviation circles.

In his very interesting biography on Bader, Paul Brickhill (2) chronicles the 1946 period in the epilogue:

In July 1946, after six years of military service, Bader had gone back to work for the Shell group. He was officially head of Shell's Aviation Department in London. Shell bought a small four-seated low-wing Percival Proctor private plane for Bader to fly. The Proctor was painted silvery and christened "Willie Uncle" by Bader, after the last two letters in the official registration code: G-AHWU. Bader's first job was to fly Doolittle on a European-African promotion tour for Shell.

The Bader-Doolittle tour

Writes Brickhill:

"In August he (Bader) started off on his first trip, accompanied by lieutenant general Doolittle, Shell bigwig in the USA. They were a good company. Doolittle was as dynamic as him (Bader), short and stocky, with a sense for being a friend with everyone from the clerk up to the chairman of the board. He won the Schneider cup in 1926, was Americas most famous pilot and had led the famous carrier-based raid on Tokyo in 1942, one of the war's most daring feats."

"First stop was Oslo, where they had an audience with king Haakon... In Stockholm a radio reporter asked him about the most thrilling experience of his life, and Bader said: - When I had a tour of the Hoylake golf course a few weeks ago. Then on to Copenhagen, the Hague and Paris and receptions at every place. With Doolittle beside him in the Proctor he flew to Marseille, Nice and Rome, over the Mediterranean to Tunis, Alger, Tanger and Casablanca."

"With only one or two days in each place, champagne and kindness, the pace of the trip took its toll, although Bader never touched the champagne..." (Brickhill then tells an amusing, but long, story of Bader falling asleep during a dinner in Casablanca...). "Then on to Lisbon, Madrid and Paris and back again to West Africa... Down through Bordeaux, Perpignan, Barcelona, Tanger, Agadir to the steaming heat of Dakar, further on to Lagos and Leopoldville in Belgian Congo."

What airplane?

The evening newspaper Expressen surmised that Doolittle would arrive in Stockholm "on the regular Oslo plane" at 13.45 hours. Another paper, Stockholms-Tidningen, stated (Aug. 21) that Doolittle and Bader had been delayed by the audience with king Haakon, "and arrived on an extra flight this afternoon".

Svenska Dagbladet, ususally a reliable newspaper, published a lively description of the landing, that differs, however, from these sources, and from the biography by Brickhill:

"...the two arrived at 16.20 hours at Bromma in "Hellsapoppin", the private plane of the American military attaché in Oslo. As the Witchcraft landed, first an elegant, grey-haired lady jumped out. It was the general's wife. Then came an American officer."

At this moment one must stop and ask: Was there something wrong with the Proctor plane? Could the officer that jumped out of the plane (Doolittle and Bader were both in civilian clothes), have been the American attaché in Oslo who, for some reason, had lent his plane to Bader/Doolittle..? Anyway, Svenska Dagbladet continued their painted picture of the reception:

"The photographers flashlights popped, but it wasn't Doolittle. Only a while later did he come out, a middle-aged rather small but stocky man in a blue costume and gray felt hat. When one asks him to lift his hat and wave to the photographers...he says with a brilliant smile "I'm not a very good actor", and disappears in a waiting car." (3)

Expressen further speculated that a lot of "gold-laced dignitaries" would be present at the airport. This may have been the truth. A sign in that direction is that "the ghost rocket committee"

(headed by Colonel Bengt Jacobsson), on just one day's notice postponed it's planned meeting at 14.00 hours on Tuesday, August 20, until the following Friday, August 23. Possibly some of the colonels of the committee were present at Bromma airport, but this is mere speculation.

The Shell oil company was reportedly represented at Bromma by it's Swedish director K. Holt-huis, and the Shell principal manager for Scandinavia, director C. Lejdström. The American embassy was represented by the military attaché Brigadier General Alfred A. Kessler and a "Major Cornrade" (3) (this could be S.W.Connelly, assistant military attaché at this time - AL).

General Sarnoff

The New York Times (3) connected the Doolittle-Bader visit with yet another war-star's arrival in Stockholm on that very same day, August 20.

General David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and former member of Eisenhower's war staff, arrived independently of Doolittle/Bader, in the company of his secretary, Mr. Moore and RCA's Scandinavian representative, Mr. Matcen. According to Svenska Dagbladet the company arrived by regular plane from Oslo in the morning of August 20.

While Doolittle was at the **beginning** of a monthly business tour, Sarnoff was at the **end** of his European tour, which had started out on July 15. Sarnoff returned for London and New York on the Friday, August 23.

Sarnoff was a pioneer in the field of electronics, whose fame started when as a young telegrapher he picked up the S.O.S. from the sinking Titanic in 1912. Sarnoff founded a giant electronic and media empire that included RCA and NBC. (4)

The three military aces (Doolittle, Bader and Sarnoff) were portrayed as a group by several Stockholm newspapers on August 21, so they must have gotten together in Stockholm. Svenska Dagbladet reported that Doolittle had an evening press conference on Strand Hotel in central Stockholm, and this is probably where the group photos were taken.

The New York Times reported that Colonel Kempff, head of the Defence Staff, was "extremely interested in asking the two generals advice (on the ghost rockets) and, if possible, would place all available reports before them." (5)

Doolittle stated to Stockholms-Tidningen:

- We are not here for any military negotiations, only for our company. Of course we would like to stay in Sweden more than two days, but... Maybe I would be able to see one of the renowned ghost bombs. Naturally, I don't know anything about them, but I would be glad if I did. (6)

More bold was Sarnoff, according to Morgon-Tidningen:

- I have read some about the ghost bombs in the press. It would be easy to confirm their origin, by radio-technical means, and if the Swedish state would use my services I wouldn't hesitate. But I suspect they have their own experts and will not divulge any of their results.

Flyghjältar på affärsvisit i Stockholm:

*"Visa mig bara en spökraket,
ska jag säga var den startat"*



"Air heroes on business trip to Stockholm: 'Just show me a ghost rocket, and I will tell your where it started from' From left to right: Doolittle, Sarnoff (seated) and Bader.

Sarnoff said he was in Sweden.. "to make contacts with Swedish men in the radio business. We are planning a distribution centre in Sweden." (7)

To Svenska Dagbladet he said that he was here to investigate which of his company's new inventions (television was one, radar another) that would be of use to Europeans. (3)

It must be remembered that these visits to Sweden were no unusual occurrences in 1946. Industrial, trade and political delegations arrived almost daily in the summer of 1946. Sweden had proclaimed neutrality and had managed - tip-toe on a string - to stay out of WWII. Sweden headed for the post-war era with an undamaged, fairly modern industry, that would eventually evolve into world-wide concerns such as Volvo, Electrolux, SAAB, Ericsson and Asea. Sweden had started to build a large air force, that eventually became the 4th largest in the world by the early 50's. The planes were largely "home-made" (by SAAB). Thus

there was every reason for having trade talks with Swedish men of power: industrialists, technicians, military men, and politicians.

The Kempff letter

Researching the ghost rocket phenomenon at various Stockholm archives Clas Svahn and I found two interesting documents that cast new light, and doubt, on the Doolittle and Sarnoff involvement with "ghost rockets". One of these documents was found at the War Archives in Stockholm, in a box of correspondence between the foreign section of the Defence Staff and the Swedish military attachées in Washington. (8)

The letter was written to Colonel Arvid Eriksson, Swedish military attaché in Washington, just nine days after the Doolittle-Nordenskiöld dinner at Operakällaren.

Author of the document was Colonel Curt Kempff (interviewed by the New York Times above), who headed the foreign section (attachés, espionage, etc) of the Defence Staff's Section II since October 1943. One of Kempff's duties was to keep up the routine "hand letters correspondence" with Swedish military attachés around the world. I will translate the letter in it's entirety:

Stockholm, the 30th of August, 1946.

Hb 484

Brother,

About a week ago there was a strange incident, about which I feel I should inform you.

As you no doubt have seen in the newspapers the American General Doolittle, and another high-ranking officer, visited Stockholm for commercial reasons a while ago. I was then acting as Chief of the Defence Staff. One evening immediately after the arrival of these gentlemen I was called on the telephone by an American journalist in Stockholm (I did not catch his name with certainty, but I believe it was Axelson of the Washington Post) who said that he knew that general D. very much would like to put his experience concerning rocket missiles at the disposal of Swedish authorities, especially in view of the current ghost bomb affair. I answered that I would investigate the possibilities of making a contact and asked him to call me back the next day.

The next day I spoke to Air Force General Nordenskiöld and he told me that on that same day he would have dinner with D., thus it was superbly fitting for D. to convey his views on this occasion. When, about an hour later, I was called up by the American journalist I told him that N. and D. would meet at a dinner and the desired contact could thus be established.

A few days later I learned that N. had asked D. at the dinner whether he had anything to say, but had, to his surprise, gotten the answer that D. had no viewpoints at all to give us in this matter. I then took the incident as a sign of an enterprising American journalist's zealotness in connection with the visit.

The affair wasn't over with this, however. The other day I had a visit from the acting British military attaché here, major de Salis, who showed me the transcript of a despatch from his colleague in Washington. In this I read - with my own eyes - that according to some information general D. would have contacted the acting Chief of the Defence Staff, that's me, and at that occasion given us some information concerning the rocket missile issue. De Salis now wondered what was true about this and whether he could have part of this valuable briefing. I answered by relating the course of events described above.

With best wishes
/signed/ C. Kempff

This confidential letter, written in trust to the Swedish military attaché in Washington, and probably sent through diplomatic channels, carries inside information from the Swedish military headquarters about Doolittle's superficial knowledge and interest in the ghost rockets, a low-key interest which would be atypical of an intelligence man sent out on a mission to collect valuable information.

The Rydbeck letter

Another letter, in similar spirit, was found at the National Archives. (9) It was written on Aug. 22 by Olof Rydbeck, ambassador at the legation of Sweden in Washington (later wellknown as the head of the Swedish broadcasting corporation), to the counsellor of legation Dahlman at the Swedish ministry of foreign affairs (state department). A copy of the letter arrived at Kempff's office in late August.

Washington, August 22, 1946.

Brother,

General Doolittle's and now also General Sarnoff's visits to Sweden have been noted by several newspapers and caused a number of questions from newspapers and news agencies. We have denied that the visit should have been inspired from the Swedish side, due to the rocket bombs. According to several of the questioners, the War Department (in Washington - AL) had also stated that they had no

knowledge of any connection between the general's voyages and the mysterious bombs.

According to yesterday's New York Times the Defence Staff Colonel Kempff would have said he was urgent to consult with the two American experts. Today's issue of the newspaper reports that Doolittle has met the head of the Air Force. At the same time a telegram from London is published according to which English radar materials are being demonstrated to Swedish buyers. The cited clippings are enclosed.

Sincerely,
/signed/ Olof Rydbeck

If there was any truth to the rumours about an active exchange of information between Swedish authorities and two semi-military American generals, both seemingly out of active duty, this would be indicated by the Confidential and Secret Swedish correspondence files we have gone through, particularly the formerly Secret attaché correspondence files. The files we have searched contain attaché contacts with the USA, UK, the Soviet Union, and other countries.

On one hand, sending two high-profile ex-generals on widely reported visits to Sweden would be completely out of line with intelligence operating procedures. On the other hand, there are direct traces of the more regular day-by-day question-and-answer contacts at the military, attaché level of intelligence. Detailed questions asked by American intelligence (the military attaché in Stockholm) were duly answered by members of the Swedish "space projectile" committee in the summer and autumn period of 1946.

On June 20, 1947 (four days before the Kenneth Arnold sighting), the Swedish Defence Staff sent it's attaché in Washington, Colonel Arvid Eriksson, excerpts from the final Secret ghost rocket report prepared by the Staff in December 1946. (10)

Seemingly, this information did not reach American authorities, who once again, in the wake of the summer 1947 wave of discs (and also many rocket-like objects...!!) questioned Swedish authorities for more complete information. A watered-down version of the final Secret report was received by the US attachés in Stockholm in September 1947, translated and sent to American intelligence agencies. (11)

The Doolittle-Sarnoff connection was evidently a media product. Colonel Kempff complained in another letter to Colonel Eriksson in Washington about a Mr. Sieburg, correspondent of Time and Life magazines who visited the Defence Staff to discuss the ghost rockets. Sieburg had difficulty to understand that no hard traces had been produced by the phenomenon.

Kempff had referred Sieburg to Major Nils Ahlgren, who headed the day-by-day routine investi-

gations, but suspected that "something indiscreet" would appear in Time or Life. (12)

Was Doolittle into UFOs?

Doolittle has, since 1946, become a popular figure in conspiracy theories. Suspicions have also centered on Sarnoff. Stanton Friedman found a letter, at the Harry S. Truman Library, an invitation for Sarnoff to meet president Truman on Sept. 25, 1946. What was discussed at that meeting? Sarnoff's visit to Sweden? (13)

During a speech at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Sept. 30, Sarnoff said he was convinced that the ghost rockets was no myth but real missiles. (14) Friedman speculates that Doolittle or Sarnoff wrote a report on the ghost rockets for "at least Eisenhower then Chief of Staff". (15)

William L. Moore and Citizens Against UFO Secrecy have both traced copies of the 9 January, 1947, issue of "Intelligence Review", that put doubts on the reporting about Doolittle:

"The Scandinavian press, with the exception of the Communist papers, initially reported the incidents in some detail and openly attributed them to missiles fired by the U.S.S.R....The Communist press has continued to ridicule the matter... In fact, a charge was made that they came from the United States and that Gen. Doolittle was sent over to observe the effects of the missiles!" (16)

Roswell and MJ-12

Doolittle, in 1947 back in military duty, has been reported, by one of Leonard Stringfield's sources, as one of the "top Air Force generals" to have flown in and out of New Mexico in July 1947, seemingly in connection with the Roswell crash. Another of Stringfield's sources spoke of "a special intelligence organization" to investigate the WWII foo fighters, "headed by Doolittle, maybe." (17)

William L. Moore also reports some high-level meetings on July 9-10, 1947 - immediately after the Roswell crash, where generals Vandenburg and Doolittle took part. They met with Air Force Secretary Stewart Symington and president Truman. For what purpose? (18)

Further, Loren Gross found a 1952 BlueBook document where General Doolittle was suggested as a member of a small "High Level Advisory Committee" to oversee and counsel UFO research at ATIC, if Project Bluebook was to be expanded. (19)

Stanton Friedman has made further attempts to involve Doolittle with high-level UFO research. In his "Final report on Operation Majestic 12", Friedman links Doolittle to general Twining, Detlev Bronk, and other claimed members of the super-secret MJ-12 committee. Friedman reports that Doolittle in 1948 became a member of the board

of NACA (the forerunner of NASA), and NACA's chairman in 1956. In 1953 he headed Project Solarium a Top Secret task force directed against the Soviet Union. Doolittle was "one of the first recipients of a PhD in Aeronautics (from MIT where (Vannevar) Bush was a dean)." (20)

Doolittle denials

In an October 1981 interview with Moore, Doolittle stated that he was "unable to recall the exact purpose of his visit to Stockholm". He was, however, able to produce copies of his travel itineraries containing the precise details of his trips as well as stopover points both before and after his arrival in Sweden. Doolittle also admitted that he "probably submitted a report" on the results of his "European activities" to the "proper authorities" upon his return, but no copy of such a report has ever surfaced.

Moore noted "no mention of the Doolittle-Sarnoff visit in the large file of official cables which passed between the American embassy at Stockholm and the State Department in Washington. If the generals' visit was as "routine" as some at the time tried to make it appear, then the absence of official diplomatic communications on the subject is most unusual", wrote Moore. (21)

Moore may be right, but there is a much more likely explanation for the silence: that Doolittle was on a purely civilian, commercial tour and had no active interest or connection to the ghost rocket investigations.

A co-worker of Moore, Hal Starr, commented on Moore's article that "the General told me a couple of years before (Moore's) interview with him: "I never went to Sweden to investigate so-called ghost rockets which some people claimed were flying saucers." This in spite of the fact that his trip and its purpose were reported in major newspapers all over the world." (22)

This statement by Doolittle is interesting, however, if taken in a literal sense. Doolittle does not deny going to Sweden, which obviously he did!, but denies investigating ghost rockets. That view compares well with the Curt Kempff letter found at the Stockholm War Archives.

Another activist to contact Doolittle was Barry J. Greenwood, of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). On August 29, 1984 Doolittle responded:

Dear Mr. Greenwood,

I have no firm knowledge of actual rockets or "ghost rockets" in Sweden. Did know, of course, that various hypotheses were being bandied about - largely by the press.

***Every good wish. Very sincerely,
/signed/ J. H. Doolittle***

Greenwood commented: "The question now is was Doolittle's trip to Sweden for a "ghost rocket" investigation, or was the story a journalistic blunder?" (23)

Greenwood, one of the sanest voices in the American ufological wilderness, hits the nail on its head with that statement. As has been demonstrated in this article, there is absolutely no evidence, from Swedish sources, of Doolittle's supposed interest in the ghost rockets. Doolittle may have truthfully stated this fact to various ufologists, but will they believe him?

Notes:

1. Expressen, Aug. 19, 1946
2. Paul Brickhill: Reach for the Sky. 1954. The English translation was made from the Swedish edition, "Han gav sig aldrig". The British original edition is not in our possession.
3. Svenska Dagbladet, Aug. 21, 1946.
4. Sandra Hochmann & Sybil Wong: Satellite Spies. 1976. pp. 137, 148.
5. The New York Times, Aug. 20, 1946
6. Stockholms-Tidningen, Aug. 21, 1946.
7. Morgon Tidningen, Aug. 21, 1946.
8. Defence Staff (Försvarsstaben): Foreign Section, Bl: 1, volume 1. War Archives, Stockholm.
9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Utrikesdepartementet): Dossier, volume 1490. National Archives, Stockholm.

10. Letters from G. Tham to Arvid Eriksson, May 16 and June 20, 1947. (Defence Staff: Foreign Section).
11. Don Berliner: The ghost rockets of Sweden. Official UFO, October 1976. Berliner found the document at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum.
12. Letter from Curt Kempff to Arvid Eriksson, Sept 20, 1946. (Defence Staff: Foreign Section).
13. Copy of telegram from Matthew J. Connolley, The White House, to Sarnoff, Sept 16, 1946. (Truman Memorial Library).
14. New York Times, Oct 1, 1946.
15. Letter to the author from Stanton T. Friedman, Oct. 7, 1982.
16. "Intelligence Review", Number 47, 9 Jan 1947, Intelligence Division, WDGS, War Department, Washington D.C. Found by Moore at the Harry S. Truman Library, Naval Aide files, and obtained by CAUS from the Air Force's historical center.
17. Leonard H. Stringfield: UFO crash/retrievals: the inner sanctum. Status report VI. 1991. pp. 22-24, 28 and 31.
18. 1982 MUFON symposium proceedings, pp. 100-101.
19. Loren Gross: UFO's a history. 1952: November-December, p. 85.
20. Stanton T. Friedman: Final report on Operation Majestic 12. 1990. pp. 11 and 28.
21. William L. Moore: New data on the ghost rockets. Focus, vol. I, no. 3, May 31, 1985.
22. Focus (W.L. Moore), vol. I, no. 6, Aug. 1985.
23. Barry J. Greenwood: Doolittle comments on "ghost rockets", Just Cause, June 1990, page 8.

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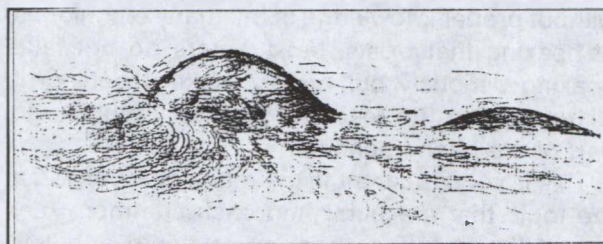
Thirteen witnesses saw Lake Storsjön monster

On April 29, 1992, thirteen pupils at the AMU school in Östersund got a shock. In the morning hours the class was visiting a bridge-under-construction on the island of Frösön in Lake Storsjön, the mid-Swedish lake famous for its lake monster. Suddenly one of the guys in the group cried out. He told the others to look at the waterline some 200 meters from shore. Something huge rose out of the water. It was 8-10 meters long and had a head as well as a tail.

- I have always said that this about the monster was only tales, but now I saw it with my own eyes, said Hans Söderman, one of the witnesses. It was a shock to me.

The group stood petrified looking at the monster that moved on the water for about 15 seconds. A man with a camera was too slow and missed the chance of a lifetime. One of the female spectators sketched the monster, the drawing was approved by all thirteen. The monster was also seen by several workers on the bridge-construction.

- This is the first time anyone sees the monster



"It was almost ten metres long and had a head and a tail". One of the female witnesses made this sketch, which was approved by the others.

as early as in April, stated Sten Rentzhog, a local historian. Except for the surroundings of the bridge the lake was covered with ice. Now Rentzhog and wellknown Swedish folklorist Jan-Öjvind Swahn are planning a scientific study of all sightings of the monster. Until the mid-1980's the monster was regularly sighted 3-4 times each summer.

Source: Aftonbladet, Stockholm, April 30, 1992.

The 1992 crop circles in England by Clas Svahn

AFU:s Clas Svahn has visited England and English circle sites in 1988, 1991, and this year. Here is a report from his recent trip.

Another summer has passed and the crop circle phenomenon is still a mystery. Fewer circles were spotted this year than in 1991 and the formations were less complex. New signs of hoaxing can be seen, but no new hoaxers have stepped forward since **Doug Bower** and **Dave Chorley** last year.

The English corn circles debate becomes more and more complex, mostly because very few, if any, researchers have unearthed any solid facts to discuss.

Money has become the number one concern for many of the circle "researchers". Selling dubious books, postcards and other circle paraphernalia tend to be more important than investigating the real phenomenon (hopefully there is one). Thousands of pounds shift pockets in this circus. Some "researchers" even arrange trips from USA to England, six months in advance. How could they know that there will be circles? And what will they do if the circles fail to show up?

The literature

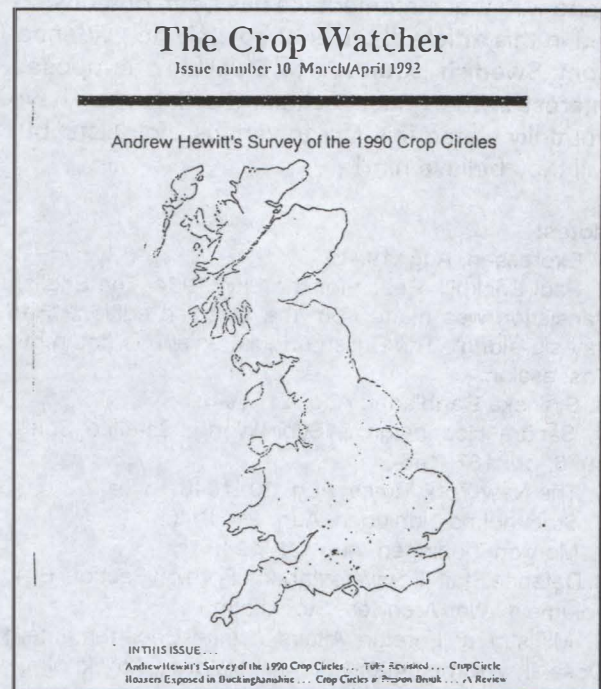
Due to the lack of hard data and objective researchers, circle investigations are often made without proper knowledge of the many techniques of hoaxing that exists. Most writers do not take hoaxing seriously but merely make a note of it without giving the reader a fair view of this large part of the phenomenon.

This is very apparent in the many new books on the topic that are published each summer. Very few of them discuss hoaxing in depth and few pages are devoted to this subject.

The only magazine on the subject that regularly publishes accounts of hoaxes is "**The Crop Watcher**" edited by **Paul Fuller**.

It is not very reassuring to note that speculations and wishfull thinking are taking more and more space in books and magazines dealing with the crop circles. Instead, one would like to see more soberness and objectivity from the different groups involved.

Several new books have been published this summer. **Andrew Collins** "The Circle Makers" (ABC Books) deals with the subject from a New Age point of view, **Pat Delgados** "Crop Circles: Conclusive Evidence!" (Bloomsbury) depicts the phenomenon in bright colour with a hope from the



author that the circles will continue to help the people of the planet Earth to live in love and peace, **Busty Taylors** pamphlet "Crop Circles of 1991" (Beckhampton Books) is crowded with aerial shots of hoaxes without stating this in the text, and **Alick Bartholomew** (editor) with his "Harbingers of World Change" (Gateway Books) heavily leans on some Hopi indians claiming the circles to be signs of global change.

All four books treat the phenomenon as if it was 100 percent genuine. Of course they acknowledge the Bower and Chorley "intermezzo", but neither of the writers seem to realize that today there is no way to distinguish between "real" circles and hoaxes.

Terence Meaden

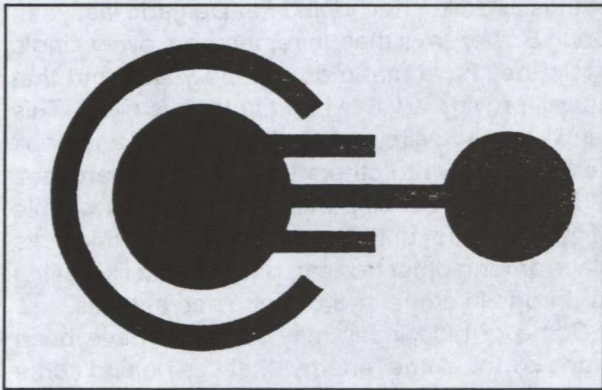
While the research is getting out of hand, the researchers become more and more like New Age prophets of the kind we ufologists so easily recognize. In a British TV appearance in mid-July Colin Andrews bluntly stated that "something was going to happen" before that months end.

To this date (August 4, 1992) the only event beyond the ordinary was conducted by Mr Andrews himself. Together with American ufologist Steve Grear he organized a laser show in an apparent attempt to lure the aliens to communicate. The only result was a series of lighted balloons sent aloft by local farmers.

Is this research?

This sorry state of circle investigation also include doctor **Terence Meaden** who has turned into amateur speculations about the origin of Stonehenge and the English megalite sites, instead of investigating circles. Up to the end of July, Meaden had not visited any of the 100 circles formed and has stated that he probably will not do any circle research this year. His being made a fool of in TV last year - in quite the same way as Pat Delgado was - affected him deeply. His books "The Goddess of the Stones" and "The Stonehenge Solution" (both Souvenir Press, 1991 and 1992) have also put some heat on the meteorologist from Bradford-on-Avon. This time, not from circle groups but from professional archeologists who do not like his speculations.

Some ufologists have used Meaden as an alibi; Meaden, a real scientist, gave the circles and the circle groups credibility. But one should not get to impressed with Meaden.



For many years Meaden considered dowsing a means of distinguishing "real" circles from hoaxes. When a dowser failed and declared an hoaxed circle to be real, last year, Meaden changed his mind. 1991 and 1992 Meaden has put more energy in promoting himself and his books than doing real research. This is too bad since Terence Meaden has the knowledge and education to make some good science. Hopefully he will do so again.

The 1992 circle season

Today, no one can give an answer to the circle phenomenon without neglecting vital parts of the facts and reports that do exists. Most researchers tend to hold on to their pet theories without taking others criticism seriously.

During my visits to England - and from the few reports I have investigated here in Sweden - **I have become more and more disappointed and uncertain of there being a real phenomenon behind the circles.** This summer I visited the Lockeridge pictogram just two days after it was formed. It was a beautifully made, but not very

complex, pictogram consisting of three circles connected with an alley, one of the circles containing a smaller circle inside itself. The circle looked real enough after a 40 minutes inspection.

After visiting the site I spoke to circle-photographer and pilot Busty Taylor and the editor of "Crop Watcher" Paul Fuller. They both told me that the pictogram was a hoax and that there where witnesses who had seen the perpetrators leaving the site.

A giant "snail" in the field of Alton Priors, just a couple of hundred meters from the 1990 and 1991 Alton Barnes pictograms, also seemed very suspicious. A joint-smoking gentleman with hippie-like outfit told me that it had formed during heavy mist on the early morning of July 7th while a circle watch was being conducted just some hundred meters away. After telling me that, he collected my one pound coin and I strolled out into the filled in the company of some other curious visitors.

Two weeks later, another snail was made in a field near Stanton St. Bernard just across the road from Alton Priors. Obviously the hoaxer had done it again. (Or maybe it was a sign from the aliens that the circle research is going to slow...)

During a flight over a large part of Wiltshire circle territory I was able to see a dozen formations. Very few of them complex. It is clear that the summer of 1992 - the first since 1978 without Mr Bower and Mr Chorley out in the fields (if we are to believe them) - has gone back to the basics; singles and ringed circles with very few complex formations. The total amount of circles were just over 100, the first days of August. This is half of last years figures.

To me all this are indications that some of the best hoaxers have withdrawn from the market.

But others are still in business. There are indications of more than two groups creating circles. One circle formation at Cheltenham and another at Lincoln where traces of them.

At least three of the circles that I could see from the air had the typical marking of a hoaxer; a tail sticking out in a curve. At Lockeridge, which surely was a hoax, this tail was obvious, but I have pictures of two other sites a few kilometers away with the same mark.

Most hoaxers - like some criminals - enjoy leaving a sign for the public, and for the researchers for that matter, to see. Last year Doug and Dave decided to make the DD-sign before telling their story to the press.

This year the press has not been as eager, as in 1991, to publish circle stories. Very few reports have made it to print. One story that did make it was "The Guardians" British Open Crop Circle Competition, held in West Wycombe the night between the 11th and 12th of July. Twelve teams made pictograms in the dark of the night for the judges to scrutinize in the morning.

I was impressed with some of the circles, says Busty Taylor, one of the judges, to AFU, indicating that the ability to hoax circles without making tracks is higher than expected.

Other judges said that this competition had made them to deal with circles more cautiously in the future.

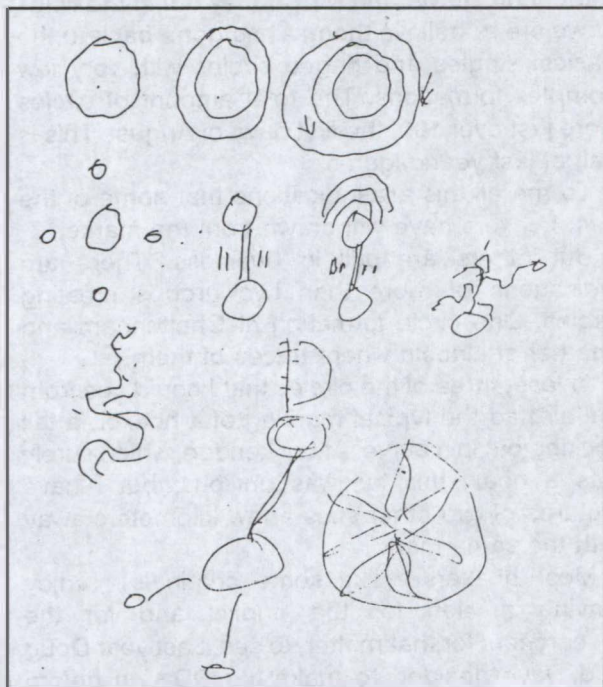
The Doug Bower interview

The number one hoaxing-team of them all, **Doug Bower** and **Dave Chorley**, did not attend but I and Håkan Ekstrand, vice chairman of UFO-Sweden, visited Mr Bower in his shop in Southampton and made an interview a week after the competition.

Mr Bower answered every question but refused to show us a map allegedly marked to show every single circle site made by him and Mr Chorley since 1978. That would mean between 330 and 420 sites based on an average of 25-30 a year, as stated by Doug Bower during the interview.

- I will show the map at an other opportunity, he said.

Mr Bower made it very clear that he and Dave Chorley did not make all of the circles reported, but that he was sure of there being no genuine phenomenon behind them. How he could know this was never made clear and his statement is of course to be treated with much caution.



Doug Bowers sketches of formations he and Dave Chorley claim they made.

During the 1 hour 15 minute interview (of which 45 minutes was filmed) Doug Bower gave the following answers concerning his and Dave Chorleys activities since 1978:

1. They never deliberately left any signs or

tracks behind - except for the 1991 circles where the "DD" sign was made.

2. They never left any pathways behind.

3. They never used any poles in the center, therefore no holes.

4. The longest trip they made was 180 miles one way from their home in Southampton in one night.

5. They were payed for the "Today" article, but not a large sum.

6. The "MBF-Services" copyright was just a gimmick made by the newspaper, they learned of it as they read the paper.

7. They plan a book about their hoaxing.

During the interview Doug Bower said, on several occasions, that he was very concerned with the profit-making going on.

So, is Bower and Chorley the real McCoy?

Maybe, maybe not. So far no one of them has been able to give evidence of making the hundreds of circles they claim to have done. We know, however, that they can fool circle enthusiasts like they fooled Pat Delgado last year. Doug Bower says that he remembers every single circle they have made during the years, and that he will provide a list "when the time is right". This list will include circles not mentioned in any book and little known to others than a few researchers.

The argument will probably go on for a couple of more years until the phenomenon takes its place among other Fortean phenomena like falling fish, frogs in stone and out of place animals.

Some of the circles may very well have been made by the same "energy" that lies behind some of the UFO reports. Others may be caused by whirlwinds or some sort of "plasma vortex". All this is of course speculation.

Meanwhile, all of us interested in obtaining an answer, and not just wild guessings, should try to be a little more scientific and less biased. We should do what the scientists won't do - research the subject objectively.

Crop circle video

A copy of the English interview (about 45 minutes) can be ordered from AFU for USD 30.00. Money must be paid in advance. The video is copyrighted and may be used for personal use only.

Contact: AFU, P.O.Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden. Payment preferably by IPMO or to Swedish giro account 49 07 14-3.